

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert M. Meeks on 03/19/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 10-13 and 14-18

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-2 and 4-9 allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For claim 1: primarily, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest in the claimed combination: a method for determining polarization of an electrode of a VRLA battery, the method including the steps of: allowing the battery to discharge for a selected period of time, monitoring the battery voltage during the selected period, detecting a first change in the battery voltage during the selected period of time and a second change in the battery voltage during the selected period of time, associating the first change with polarization of a negative electrode and the second change with polarization of a positive electrode, and determining the polarization of the electrode from the associated change in the battery voltage during the selected period of time.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAMUEL BERHANU whose telephone number is (571)272-8430. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Assouad can be reached on 571-272-2210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Edward Tso/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2858

/Samuel Berhanu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2858